

IN THE SPECIFICATION

The following paragraph replaces the paragraph commencing at the final paragraph on page 17 of the specification and continuing onto page 18 thereof:

Scanner 2 is preferably an image illumination and acquisition system as described in ~~a Applicants' copending U.S. patent application of Applicant's~~ entitled "Illumination for Inspecting Surfaces of Objects", ~~and~~ filed on May 5, 2000, now issued as U.S. Patent 6,437,312. Although scanner 2 is preferably operative to acquire RGB optical images, it is readily appreciated that scanner 2 may be operative to acquire other forms of image, for example monochrome gray level images, images in HIS (Hue, Saturation and Intensity) format, or images correlating to non-optical properties of the object such as electric fields surrounding a printed circuit boards which define certain electrical properties relating to electrical circuits on the printed circuit board. It is appreciated that the present invention may relate to image processing of any suitable optical or non-optical image.